United Nations S/2001/922

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 September 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 25 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement concerning the development of the situation in the Mano River Union countries issued on 24 September 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **De Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 25 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning the development of the situation in the Mano River Union countries issued on 24 September 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expresses its satisfaction about the progress made in the dialogue between the three Mano River Union countries, in particular at the recent meetings held by their Ministers for Foreign Affairs in Monrovia, Freetown and Conakry.

The European Union welcomes the statements made and the commitments entered into at those meetings concerning, in particular, joint action by those States against the groups involved in the events which destabilize the region, the establishment of a joint patrol at the borders between the three countries and combating the proliferation of small arms. It calls on the Mano River Union countries to make progress on those issues as quickly as possible.

The European Union also welcomes the prospect of a meeting between the heads of State of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in January 2002, as proposed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

The European Union wishes to assure the three heads of State of its support in their search for a solution to the conflicts persisting in the subregion. It reiterates its willingness to contribute to the dialogue between their countries, in particular through the Presidency's Special Representative for West Africa, Hans Dahlgren.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.